

## **ATTENDING**

Mayor Mike Trinacty, Chair  
Deputy Mayor Johanna Kwakernaak  
Councillor Ty Walsh  
Councillor Adam Lutz  
Councillor Derrick Jamieson  
Councillor Chris Goddard  
Jen Boyd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Lisa Walsh, Director of Finance  
Aaron Dondale, Director of Public Works  
Katie Verrette, Manager of Community Development (arrived at 6:45 pm via Zoom)  
Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant

## **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

3 members of the public

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. RFD006-2026: Special Election**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council set the other advance poll day for the 2026 Special Election as Saturday, June 13, 2026, per section 114 (4) (b) *Municipal Elections Act*, with ordinary polling day as Saturday, June 20, 2026.**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council agree to a full electronic method (internet and phone) for the 2026 Special Municipal Election.**

#### **b. RFD008-2026: WWTP Tertiary Upgrades**

Director Dondale reviewed the tenders that were received for the wastewater treatment plant tertiary upgrades. It was the recommendation of staff that Mid-Valley Construction Limited be awarded the contract for \$5.479 million, which is below the budget estimate of \$7.6 million. The award is contingent on approval

from Nova Scotia Environment and completion of Indigenous engagement requirements. Concerns were raised about potential budget creep and change orders. Director Dondale explained that the contract includes defined line items and a 15% contingency, with Mid-Valley Construction responsible only for their construction component. It was noted that any overages which may exceed the CAO's spending authority would need to come back to Council for approval.

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council award the work scope as outlined in Tender BER2026-001 Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Upgrades to Mid Valley Construction Ltd for their Tender Price of \$5,479,000.00 HST included, conditional upon project approval from NSECC and required CHIF consultations.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**c. RFD007-2026: 2026/27 Operating and Capital Budget**

CAO Boyd began the presentation by reviewing V4 of the operating and capital budget. It was highlighted that Berwick's current tax rates are below the average for both residential and commercial, noting that a 1-cent increase in the commercial rate only generates \$2,800 in revenue.

The items that required additional information from the previous Council meeting were addressed. CAO Boyd highlighted that, due to budget constraints and public feedback, the compliance officer position was removed from the budget, and the funds were allocated for street paving, specifically addressing issues on Foster Street.

In the discussion on capital budget items, it was agreed to defer the bus shelters project, with only one potential shelter to be considered pending further information on funding and route changes. It was also agreed to defer one of the flashing crosswalk lights. Council was also interested in establishing a fire service rate.

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council accept the Capital budget with the amendments of a removal of a bus shelter and one flashing light for a new total of \$857,680.00.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council accept the 2026-27 Operating budget with the removal of the leadership training.**

**1 – YAY (Lutz)  
5 - NAY**

**MOTION DEFEATED**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council accept the 2026-27 Operating budget for a total of \$7,603,824.**

**1 – NAY (Lutz)  
5 – YAY**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT the 2026-27 Commercial tax rate be set at \$4.070 per \$100 of assessed value and the Residential/Resource tax rate be set at \$1.628 per \$100 of assessed value.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **4. IN-CAMERA**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED TO INCAMERA AT 8:46 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE INCAMERA SESSION BE ADJOURNED TO THE REGULAR MEETING AT 9:12 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council authorize the Town of Berwick's withdrawal from the Valley Regional Enterprise Network effective March 31, 2028, and give 24 months' notice to the other parties, per section 38 of the Intermunicipal Services Agreement dated May 23, 2023.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT Council approve the following appointments to replace Justin Serino:**

- **Councillor Chris Goddard as Chair of Police Advisory Board**
- **Councillor Chris Goddard as alternate for Valley Regional Services**
- **Deputy Mayor Kwakernaak as alternate for AREA**
- **Councillor Ty Walsh as alternate for Kings Point to Point**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

**IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE REGULAR MEETING  
BE ADJOURNED AT 9:15 PM.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Approved by Town Council, April 14, 2026***  
**As recorded by Krista Longmire, Executive Assistant**